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Gibraltar, Febr. 20. *N. S.*

THE Enemy having received a conſiderable Reinforcement, commanded by Lieutenant-General Thouy, among which were 18 Companies of Granadiers that came from Galicia, the Marquis de Villadarias was encouraged to attempt an Aſſault upon the Round Tower, in hopes that if he had been able to have made a Lodgment there, that Hill commanding the Town, he might have diſtreſſed it before the Arrival of the Marſhal de Teſſe; and having received Intelligence by ſome Deſerters of our Diſpoſition, he made a falſe Attack upon the Round Tower on the 2d Inſtant with 50 Granadiers, to try how practicable it was to mount the Breach: They came on with a great deal of Reſolution, but were ſoon beaten back to their neareſt Trenches with the Loſs of two Officers and ſome Soldiers. In the afternoon it began to rain very hard, and continued to do ſo all that night, and the day following, which filled the Enemy's Trenches with Water.

The 4th a Veſſel arrived here from Barcelona, with divers Miquelets and Catalans on board, who came to enter themſelves into his Catholick Majeſty's Service.

The Enemy having prepared all things for their intended Attack, began it the 7th by break of day with 600 Granadiers, French and Walloons, all choſen Men, commanded by Lieutenant-General Thouy, and ſupported by 1000 Spaniards.

The Enemy's Batteries having made a Breach near the Round Tower, Capt. Bennet, our chief Enginier, had caſt up a Work that covered it; and joining to the Rock above the Breach, there was a piece of the old Wall yet ſtanding, which Poſts were guarded at night by a Captain, 3 Subalterns, and 90 Men; but at break of day (as is uſual in Gariſons where the Duty is hard) the Captain with 60 Men draws off the Hill, and ſtays in the Round Tower all day, to relieve the Officer and Soldiers that remain above at the Breach. The Round Tower is guarded by 180 Men, commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel and other Officers.

Of this Diſpoſition the Enemy having Intelligence by ſome Deſerters, as aforeſaid, mounted the Hill with great Silence, and lay concealed in the Cliffs and hollow Ground, till ſuch time as the Captain with his Party was drawn off; then 300 of them got at the point of the Wall, and throwing Granadoes down on the Lieutenant and his Party, obliged them to quit their Poſt. At the ſame time 200 Granadiers ſtormed the Round Tower, where Colonel Borr made a very good Defence, though the Enemy got above the Breach, and threw great Stones and Granadoes upon his Men: But thoſe who had got in at the Wall marching down to cut off his Retreat into the Town, obliged him and his Men to get over the Parapet of the Line, and to retire into the Covered-way, where the Engliſh Guards were poſted. The Enemy had poſſeſſed themſelves of ſome of our Works, and were to have made a Lodgment on this ſide of the Round Tower; but being eager to purſeu the Advantage they had gained, they neglected fortifying themſelves, and puſh'd forwards towards the Gate that leads into the Line of Communication to the Tower; which miſtake of theirs did in a great meaſure contribute to the overthrowing of their whole Deſign.

The Alarm being by this time got through the whole Gariſon, all the Officers and Soldiers ran to their reſpective Poſts. Captain Fiſher, of the Marines, charged the foremoſt of the Enemy with Seventeen Men; but his ſmall Party was ſoon routed, and himſelf taken Priſoner. Colonel Moncall, Major of my Lord Barrymore's Regiment, with ſome other Officers, having ſoon after got together a Body of about 4 or 500 Men, marched into the Line that goes to the Round Tower, and charged the Enemy ſo vigorouſly with Sword in hand, that he drove them from place to place quite out of the Round Tower, and retook that Poſt, after it had been an hour in their hands, and Captain Fiſher was retaken. Colonel Rivett, of the Guards, having got up the Rock on the Right of the Covered-way with 20 Granadiers, favoured very much Colonel Moncall's Succeſs.

The whole Gariſon being by this time got together, made ſo furious a Fire, that the Enemy was at laſt obliged to retire in great Confuſion: A Captain of Granadiers, 4 Lieutenants, and 40 of their Men, were taken Priſoners, and about 70 were killed on the ſpot, above half of them Officers, and upwards of 200 were wounded. The Enemy acknowledge that they have ſuffered moſt in Officers, and that it fell very heavy upon thoſe Companies of Granadiers that lately came from Galicia. They beat a Parly about noon, and deſired Leave to carry away their dead, which was granted. We had in this Action about 27 Men killed, and 120 wounded; and Captain Fiſher was a ſecond time taken Priſoner.

The next day the Prince of Heſſe Darmſtad being, with ſeveral Officers, upon a new Battery of 12 Guns which he had ordered to be erected, Colonel Moncall, who was with him, loſt a Leg by a Cannon Shot, which killed a Spaniſh Officer, and wounded 5 other Perſons.

On the 12th Inſtant the Marſhal de Teſſe arrived in the Enemy's Camp, whoſe Reinforcement, beſides the 18 Companies of Granadiers abovementioned conſiſts of 4 Battalions of Foot; yet we find them not ſince his Arrival more vigorous, or our Men leſs reſolute, than before: On the contrary, whereas the Enemy had of late uſed to throw in 150 or 200 Bombs of a night, and plied us very warmly from their Batteries, though with little Succeſs, ſince this laſt Action they have been very quiet, and have ſpent their time only in repairing their Trenches, which the Cannon of the Town, and the great Rains, have much injured.

The 9th the Tartar Pink and the Newport came in with Supplies from Lisbon.

The 13th Inſtant the Tartar and the Newport ſailed to the Eaſtward, and met in their way with two Foreign Ships, which they brought in hither, on ſuſpicion of their having Contraband Goods.

The 15th the Tartar and Newport ſailed again to the Eaſtward.

The 16th the Leopard and Roebuck arrived here, having on board 6 Companies of the Dutch Battalion which were wanting, and two Enginiers, with ſeveral Neceſſaries for the Gariſon.

The 17th two Dutch Privateers came into our Bay.

The 18th in the evening the Tyger, with a Tranſport-ſhip, arrived here from Lisbon, having on board a Supply of Men and Ammunition.

The 19th a Captain came from the Enemy with a Flag of Truce, to agree upon the Exchange of Priſoners, and we ſent what we had along with him; the Captain we had taken was exchanged for Captain Fiſher.

Colonel Gonzalez, a Spaniard, hath been ſhot to Death, for correſponding with the Enemy: One Hopper, and one Brown, the firſt a Lawyer, and the other a Merchant, have been put out of the Town, with Halters about their Necks, for the ſame Crime.

Lisbon, Febr. 24. *O. S.* An Expreſs arrived the 14th Inſtant at Lagos from Gibraltar, with an Account, that the new Battery of 12 large Guns was finiſhed; and that the 30 Cochorn Mortars, lately ſent to the Gariſon from hence, did much Damage to the Enemy's Works, which are for the moſt part made up of Gabions and Faſcines. Several Walloons and Catalans are lately come over from the Enemy, who all ſay, that the Enemy have ſawn 22 of their Cannon to pieces, for the better Conveniency of carrying them away, and had drawn off two Mortars.

By an Expreſs from Gibraltar of the 15th which came in two days ago, we have Advice, That Monſieur Pointi is come into that Bay with a Squadron of 14 Men of War and two Fire-ſhips, and came to an Anchor near Old Gibraltar, in order to get out if our Fleet ſhould ſurpriſe them. However the Gariſon was not at all diſheartened but, on the contrary, all things were well diſpoſed to give the Enemy a warm Reception, if they venture upon another Aſſault, which is expected; but if they fail of Succeſs therein, it is believed the Enemy's Squadron will not continue there; for the Deſerters all agree, that the general Diſcourſe among them is about raiſing the Siege, and making a Line at the head of their Camp, to hinder the Gariſon from making Excurſions into the Country. The Supplies of Men, Stores and Ammunition, that had been ſent them from hence, are all ſafely arrived; which will the better enable them to defend the Place.

Our Fleet is fitting out with all poſſible Expedion to ſail to Gibraltar: It will conſiſt of 14 Engliſh, 4 Dutch and 4, if not 6, Portugueſe Men of War, all of the Line of Battel, and of what Privateers came be got ready, particularly 3 Dutch Privateers, one of them of 40 Guns; and (as it is hoped) will be ready to put to Sea in two days time.

A Portugueſe Regiment of 1000 Men, the Lord Mountjoy's Regiment, and a Dutch Battalion, are to go on board the Fleet, which together make about 2200 Men.

The Earl of Galway goes next week to the Frontiers of Alentejo, where the Forces of which our Army is to be compoſed are drawing together, in order to go upon ſome Enterpriſe, now that the Enemy have brought down the beſt of their Forces before Gibraltar, and ſeem to employ their thoughts chiefly upon that Siege.

Venice, Febr. 27. The French and Spaniards continue the Blockade of Mirandola; but the Gariſon is not yet in want of any Neceſſaries, being frequently ſupplied from the Ferrareze, and their Spirits kept up with the Hopes of being ſuccoured by the Army that is ſhortly expected from Germany to join the Duke of Savoy, or make a powerful Diverſion in his Favour. Letters from Modena give an Account of an Inſurrection in that Duchy againſt the French, about 800 of the Inhabitants of Gratagnana having taken up Arms, who may probably be joined by greater numbers. Letters from Rome ſay, that the Queen Dowager of Poland is gone from thence towards Gratz in Stiria, where ſhe expects to meet the Electreſs of Bavaria her Daughter.

Paris